

URBAN DISTRICT OF REDDITCH.

Annual Report

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

OF REDDITCH,

FOR THE YEAR 1904,

BY

JAMES STEVENSON M.B., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

WITH THE

ANNUAL REPORT of the SANITARY INSPECTOR

WILLIAM JAMESON

ASSOC. SAN. INST.

REDDITCH :

J. WHEATLEY & SONS, PRINTERS.

CHURCH GREEN HOUSE,

March, 1905.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF REDDITCH.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my THIRD ANNUAL REPORT on the Health and Sanitary Condition of Redditch, and in doing so I thank you for the courtesy and consideration you have extended to me during the past three years.

I also take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the kindly assistance rendered to me at all times by the Staff at the Council Offices.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES STEVENSON.

Redditch Urban District Council.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1904.

Redditch is situated on the borderlands of the Counties of Worcester and Warwick. It includes Redditch Parish, and parts of Ipsley and Feckenham Parishes. The district is on the Keuper marl, subsoil is also marl. Height above ordnance datum varies from 550 to 350 feet.

Inhabited houses (1901 Census) 2920; Ratable value (according to Valuation Lists), £51,087 5s. 11d. The chief industries of the district are needle-making, fish hook and tackle making, and the manufacture of cycles.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth-rate—25·6 per 1000 of the population. Death-rate—12·7 per 1000 of the population. Zymotic Death-rate—1·2 per 1000 of the population. Infantile Mortality—160 per 1000 births.

POPULATION.

According to the Census the population in 1891 was 11,311, and in 1901, 13,493. Taking this as a guide the population was estimated to be 14,289 in June, 1904. The number of persons per inhabited house is 4·6. The area of the Urban District being 1,023 statute acres, it follows that the density of population is 13·9 per acre.

BIRTHS.

Three hundred and sixty-seven were registered during the year. The birth-rate is consequently 25·6 per 1,000 of the population. This is a remarkably low figure for the district, the lowest in fact recorded since the year 1886: The average for the ten years previous to 1904 is 28·6 per 1,000. For some years now the birth-rate for all England and Wales has shown a tendency to slightly decrease, the explanation of which must be sought for in some cause or causes which are in operation throughout the civilized world, as the phenomenon is a general one.

Eight, or 2·1 per cent of the births were illegitimate. The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1904 was 27·9 per 1000.

DEATHS.

These totalled 182—Males 87, Females 95. Six deaths of persons "non-residents" of the district occurred in the Smallwood Hospital, but against these there were nine deaths of former Redditch "residents" at Bromsgrove and Alcester Infirmaries, and at the Isolation Hospital.

The "net" deathrate is 12·7 per 1,000 of the population, which is the lowest ever recorded, except that in the year 1894, when it was only 11·0. The rate was highest in August (22·7) and lowest in May (8·3). Epidemic diarrhœa was the cause of the marked rise in August. The most frequent causes of death were:—Bronchitis, 23 deaths; Tubercular Diseases, 20; Heart Diseases, 17; Epidemic Diarrhœa, 16; Premature Birth, 14; Cancer, 14. The death-rate for England and Wales in 1904 was 16·2 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

By Infantile Mortality is meant the number of deaths, under one year of age, which occur for every 1,000 births in the district.

In 1904 there were 59 deaths under one year and 367 births; this gives an Infantile Mortality of 160 per 1,000. During the preceding ten years the Infantile Mortality varied from 78 in 1894 to 228 in 1896, and the average from 1894 to 1903 was 166.

Fifty-nine infants died during the year, and with the exception of 1903 this is the smallest total of infant deaths registered in any year for the past eight years. Last year the figure was 135, and the marked rise from 135 to 160 (disappointing as it is) is due (1st) to the severe epidemic of Diarrhœa in August, and (2nd) to the small birth-rate of the year.

The assigned causes of death were:—Epidemic Diarrhœa, 14; Premature Birth, 14; Congenital Debility, 8; Enteritis, 6; Bronchitis, 4; Tubercular Diseases, 3; other causes, 10; total, 59.

This year again Premature Birth and Congenital Debility (combined) head the list, being responsible for 22 deaths out of the total 59. I can only repeat what I said last year that it is extremely difficult to prevent these causes of death in a district like Redditch, where such a large proportion of the mothers work in factories right up to the day of their confinement.

Epidemic Diarrhœa caused 14 deaths. As it has been proved again and again that bottle-fed babies are more liable to intestinal disorders than those fed solely by the breast, and as in Redditch fully 80 per cent. of the babies are bottle-fed, we must accordingly expect when visited by an epidemic of summer diarrhœa some such result as we find in 1904.

Hard as the Health Missioner (Mrs. Coffey) has worked she finds the greatest difficulty in persuading mothers to rely on breast feeding alone. In very many cases it is impossible for the mothers to do it, as they return to work in the factories as soon as they are well after confinement, and only can feed the baby when they come

in for meals or finish the day's work. The Health Missioner has been most painstaking and assiduous in the carrying out of her duties, and undoubtedly many young mothers have cause to (and do) thank her for her frequent visits and advice; but how often, how very often, has she been disappointed. The following are briefly the chief points in which she finds the mothers at fault:—the persistence (despite all warnings and advice) in the use of the long tubed bottles, irregular methods of feeding, want of knowledge and cleanliness in preparing the food and keeping bottles clean and fit for use; the giving of bread and farinaceous foods to infants of unsuitable age; want of fresh air and daily bath for the baby.

The question of starting a crèche was discussed during the year, and although everyone agreed it would be most useful, the matter was allowed to drop owing to expense.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Table showing number of Cases notified this and each year for ten past years.

DISEASE	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894
Small-pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Scarlatina ...	17	140	79	24	73	19	212	189	45	47	14
Diphtheria ...	4	0	14	20	46	10	13	1	7	5	4
Membranous											
Croup ...	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	0
*Fever ...	2	8	19	11	10	16	39	28	11	7	7
Erysipelas ...	14	29	23	20	28	20	26	19	16	23	10
Puerperal ...	1	3	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS ...	38	181	139	77	159	66	290	239	80	86	36

* Fever includes Enteric or Typhoid, Continued and Typhus Fevers.

The most noticeable feature in the above Table is the small number of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received in 1904, only 38 as against an average of 135 for the previous ten years. With the exception of Epidemic Diarrhœa the town was remarkably immune from all the zymotic diseases, and, strange to say, ten years ago (1894) there was a very similar immunity. In addition the two non-notifiable infectious diseases, measles and whooping-cough, were also markedly absent, not a single death occurring from either.

TABLE A.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1904.

REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT. Area in acres, 1,023. Population in 1891, 11,311; 1901, 13,493.

Increase, 1891-1901, 2,182. Estimated Population, 1904, 14,289.

Medical Officer of Health: JAMES STEVENSON, M.B., D.P.H.

Mortality per 1,000 of Population living during same period: Birth Rate, 25·6. Nett Death Rate, 12·7. (a) Zymotic Death Rate, 1·2 (b) Inf. Mortal., 160. Phthisis Death Rate, 0·69. (c) Resp. Death Rate, 2·1. Smallpox Death Rate, 0. Measles Death Rate, 0. Scarlatina Death Rate, 0·13. Diphtheria and Membranous Croup Death Rate, 0. Whooping Cough Death Rate, 0. (d) Fever Death Rate, 0. (e) Diarrhoea Death Rate, 1·1. (f) Enteritis Death Rate, 0·6. Cancer, Malignant Disease Death Rate, 0·9.

	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membrano's Croup	Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever
Cases
Deaths
Hospital Cases...
"Deaths

Diseases prevalent—Epidemic Diarrhoea. Period—July and August. Schools closed—None.

- (a) Includes Smallpox, Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever and Diarrhoea.
 - (b) Estimated by measuring the proportion of deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 of the births registered during the same period.
 - (c) Includes Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy.
 - (d) Includes Typhus, Enteric Fever, and indefinite Forms of continued Fevers.
 - (e) Under the heading of "Diarrhoea" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhoea, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from Epidemic Enteritis, Zymotic Enteritis, Epidemic Diarrhoea, Summer Diarrhoea Dysentery and Dysenteric Diarrhoea, Choleraic Diarrhoea, Cholera, Cholera Nostras (in the absence of Asiatic Cholera).
 - (f) Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-Enteritis, Muco-Enteritis and Gastric-catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term of "Diarrhoea."
- Deaths from diarrhoea secondary to some other well-defined disease shall be included under the latter.

TABLE 1.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING
1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT				Total deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institut- ions in the District	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Number	*Rate	Under 1 Year		At all Ages					Number	*Rate
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births reg- istered	Number	*Rate					
1	2	3	4	5	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	12,006	330	27.4	26	78	129	10.0					
1895	12,224	347	28.3	56	161	223	18.2					
1896	12,442	341	27.4	78	228	206	16.5	4				
1897	12,660	324	25.5	65	200	214	16.9	10				
1898	12,894	388	30.0	73	188	209	16.2	9				
1899	13,112	388	29.5	65	170	184	14.0	8				
1900	13,330	392	29.4	78	198	264	19.8	6				
1901	13,550	418	30.8	62	148	184	13.5	10				
1902	13,784	403	29.2	63	156	183	13.2	10	3	3	183	13.2
1903	14,039	405	28.8	55	135	181	12.8	10	6	9	184	13.1
Average for Years 1894-1903.	13,004	373	28.6	62	166	197	15.1					
1904	14,289	367	25.6	59	160	179	12.5	12	6	9	182	12.7

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 1,023 acres

Total Population at all ages ... 13,493

Number of Inhabited Houses ... 2,920

Average Number of Persons per House ... 4.6

(At Census for 1901).

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—
Smallwood Hospital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—The Infirmary
Bromsgrove; The Infirmary, Alcester; The Joint Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove,

Is the Union Workhouse within the District? No.

TABLE II.
REDDITCH URBAN DISTRICT.

Names of Wards	1.—CENTRAL				2.—NORTH-WEST				3.—EASEMORE				4.—HOLLOWAY				5.—ST. LUKE'S			
	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year
Year																				
1903	2765	79	49	15	2709	82	39	12	2824	93	36	10	3264	78	40	10	2477	73	20	8
1904	2812	85	38	14	2763	79	47	20	2873	66	39	7	3321	60	23	9	2520	77	35	9

Averages of Years 1894 to 1903 not available.

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED
DURING 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases Notified in Whole District							Total Cases Notified in in each Locality					No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality				
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	Central	North-west	Fasemore	Holloway	St. Luke's	Central	North-west	Fasemore	Holloway	St. Luke's
Smallpox ...	...															
Cholera ...	...															
Diphtheria ...	4	3	1						1		2	1		1		2	1
Membranous Group ...																	
Erysipelas ...	14	3		1		8	2	3	2	4	4	1					
Scarlet Fever ...	17		7	7	2	1		4	3	3	5	2	4	3	2	4	2
Typhus Fever...	...																
Enteric Fever...	...																
Relapsing Fever	...																
Continued Fever	2		1	1	1			1	1								
Puerperal Fever	1				1				1								
Plague ...	...															
Totals ...	38	3	10	10	4	9	2	8	8	7	11	4	4	4	2	6	3

Isolation Hospital for Scarlatina, Diphtheria and Fever—Hill Top, Bromsgrove.

" " for Smallpox—Woodgate, Lower Bentley.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Deaths in or belonging to whole Districts at subjoined ages							Deaths in or belonging to Localities (at all ages)					Deaths in the Small-wood Hospital
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and und'r 25	25 and und'r 65	65 and up-ward	Central	North-west	Ease-more	Hollo-way	St. Luke's	
Smallpox													
Measles													
Scarlet Fever	2		2						1	1			
Whooping Congh													
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup													
Croup													
Fever { Typhus													
Enteric													
OtherContinued													
Epidemic Influenza													
Cholera													
Plague													
Diarrhœa	16	14	2					9	5	2			
Enteritis	9	6	1	1			1	2	4		1	2	
Puerperal Fever													
Erysipelas	2	1				1					2		
Other Septic Diseases													
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	10				2	8		2	2	2	1	3	
Other Tubercular Dis- eases	10	3		4	1	2		1	3	2	1	3	1
Cancer, Malignant Dis- ease	14					5	9	3	4	2		5	2
Bronchitis	23	4	1			9	9	7	3	5	1	7	
Pneumonia	8	3	2			2	1		2	3	1	2	
Pleurisy													
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs													
Alcoholism }	2					2			1	1			
Cirrhosis of Liver }													
Venereal Diseases													
Premature Birth	14	14						2	5	4	3		
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	2					2			1	1			
Heart Diseases	17			1	1	12	3	5	4	2	5	1	
Accidents	3	2		1				1	1			1	2
Suicides													
Congenital Debility	8	8						1	1		2	4	
Senile Decay	11						11	2	3	3	2	1	
Convulsions	3	2	1								1	2	
All other causes... ..	28	2	1		5	11	9	3	7	11	3	4	7
All causes	182	59	10	7	9	54	43	38	47	39	23	35	12

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES WORK- PLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries) ...	251	10	Nil.
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries) ...	369	57	
WORKPLACES	32	—	
HOMEWORKERS' PREMISES	39	2	
Total :	691	69	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions		
	Found	Remedi'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector			
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>						
Want of Cleanliness	44	44	All Work reported to H.M. Inspector	None		
Want of Ventilation	2	2				
Overcrowding	9	9				
Want of Drainage of Floors						
Other Nuisances	2	1				
Sanitary Accommodations { Insuffieient	12	10				
{ Unsuitable or defective						
{ Not separate for sexes						
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :</i>						
Illegal oecupation of underground bakehouse	none in	use				
Breach of special sanit.requirements for bakehouses						
Failure as regard lists of outworkers						
Giving out work to be done in premises which are unwholesome and infected						
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in places infected by searlet fever or smallpox						
Other offences						
Total	69	66				

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

MATTERS NOTIFIED TO H.M. INSPECTORS OF FACTORIES :

Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act	3
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act :—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	36
Reports (of Action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors	17
Other	5
Underground Bakehouses in use	0
Homework :—Lists received	15
Homework in unwholesome or infected Premises :—	
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises	3
Workshops on the Register at the end of 1904 :—	
Bakehouses	23
Workshops in occupation	263

SCARLATINA.

These cases totalled 17, as against 140 last year. It is only to be expected after the small epidemic of the previous two years that the number of cases should drop, and in the natural course of events we ought to keep fairly free for the next three years. Certainly, with sporadic cases cropping up now and then, the prompt removal of the patients to the Isolation Hospital, as now practised, will tend to prevent the spread of infection much more than in previous times, when all the cases were treated at home, distributing the infection during the six weeks to two months of their illness.

SMALL-POX.

No cases notified. Should an outbreak occur, provisions for isolating the patients have been made by the erection of a temporary hospital at Woodgate, Lower Bentley.

VACCINATION.

Owing to various infantile complaints, such as eczema, bronchitis, debility, &c., there are many postponements of vaccination in the district during the first few months of life, but the yearly tables show that on the whole, Redditch is a well vaccinated town, fully 95 per cent. of the children reaching one year of age having been certified as successfully vaccinated.

ENTERIC AND CONTINUED FEVERS.

Not a single case of Enteric or Typhoid Fever was notified during the year. This is most satisfactory, as the absence of this fever speaks well for the quality of our water, milk, and food supply.

There were two notifications of Continued Fever, both very mild cases, no death.

DIPHTHERIA.

Four notifications, no death. The cases occurred sporadically, and all were promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital.

In view of the great value of administering the Antitoxin treatment early in the disease, it may be advisable to once more to mention the fact that, in those cases where the parents are too poor to pay the cost of the necessary serum, the District Council are willing to defray the expense.

I may also add that now the County Bacteriologist examines "free" any swabs from suspicious throats, any sputum for tubercle bacilli, or blood in Enteric cases for Widal's reaction, the only stipulation being that the patient and doctor both reside in the County.

MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.

No notifications.

ERYSIPELAS.

Seventeen notifications, two deaths.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

One notification, no death.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MEASLES.

For the third consecutive year we have been remarkably immune from this affection, and not a single death was due to it.

A very mild form of the "German" type was prevalent during the last two months of the year.

WHOOPING-COUGH.

Was also practically absent, and there was no death from it. As it was epidemic in 1902 and 1903 we shall probably continue free of it for a few more years.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA

Was very prevalent in the last week of July, month of August, and first week of September. Sixteen deaths were caused by it, fourteen of which occurred in August, and fourteen of the victims were infants under one year of age. It is many years since such a severe epidemic visited the district, and the rise in the infant mortality figure is chiefly due to this cause.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA.

A few cases occurred in December, no death.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The death-rates for 1904 from Phthisis Pulmonalis and other Tubercular diseases are lower than any other year in the past of which I can find a record. There were ten deaths from consumption of the lungs, and ten from the other tubercular affections. The phthisis death-rate is accordingly 0·69 per 1,000 of the population. Years ago in Redditch, Fibroid Phthisis, or, as it was locally known, “pointers’ rot,” was a fairly frequent cause of death, now, I am glad to say, such a cause is extremely rare. This is, of course, owing to the improvements in the methods of manufacture, better ventilation, removal of dust by fans, &c., &c. In its essence the crusade against tuberculosis is a crusade for sunlight and fresh air, and when public opinion is once thoroughly aroused to the value of these powerful aids in health, a marked decline will take place in the number of tubercular cases.

On a death from Phthisis coming under notice in the Registrar’s weekly return, a visit was paid to the house and disinfection of the premises offered to the tenants. There was only one refusal. More might be done however. Consumption is a disease that could be controlled, and a system of voluntary notification of Phthisis might be introduced with advantage. Advice could then be given to friends and relations as to the value of sunlight and fresh air, the importance of disinfecting the sputum, pamphlets distributed on how to prevent the spread of the disease and protect their own families, general precautions to be observed, &c., &c.

I am pleased to report that the fund, started in 1902, for sending patients to the Sanatorium at Knightwick, has received and continues to receive support from all classes in the district. Since its inception seven patients have had terms of treatment, varying from two to six months, and, with one exception, all the cases undoubtedly were markedly benefitted by their stay at the Sanatorium.

MILK SHOPS AND DAIRIES.

Since 1903, when the Regulations made by the Urban District Council with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops, were printed and circulated, more attention has been given to these, and about fifty persons are now registered as cowkeepers, purveyors of milk, &c.

There are not many cowsheds in the district, most of the milk sold coming from farms in the neighbourhood. Over these, of course, we have no power of supervision. Those few cowsheds which are in the district have, with two exceptions, been well kept, and when suggestions of improvements have been offered, the owners carried them out. The Dairies were frequently visited, many improvements have been made, storing of milk in shops or ill-ventilated rooms stopped, cans and vessels inspected as to cleanliness, &c.

Undoubtedly the issue of the regulations, combined with constant supervision, have had a most beneficial effect, and the conditions under which milk is stored and sold have much improved during the past two years.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS' ACT.

In all, 25 samples of food and drink were taken during the year, either through the Inspector of Police or by the Sanitary Inspector. They included the following:—13 samples of milk, 5 of butter, 4 of lard, 2 of groceries, and 1 of brawn. All the samples were submitted for analysis and certified as free from adulteration, with one exception, a sample of milk which showed that some of the cream had been extracted. The seller of the milk in question was cautioned.

JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL AT BROMSGROVE.

REDDITCH CASES DURING 1904.

Scarlatina, 15.	Average duration of stay in Hospital, 47 days.				
Diphtheria, 4.	„	„	„	„	40 „

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Reference to the Sanitary Inspector's Report and to the special form in which the work is tabulated, will show that a good deal of time has been spent during the year visiting the Factories and Workshops. In many of the former the sanitary accommodation for the workers has been improved, and speaking generally the sanitary condition of the workshops and workplaces is fairly good.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

The improvement in the sanitary condition of the town is being steadily maintained. Thirty-three new dwelling-houses were erected during the year, thirty-one of which were provided with water-closets. In the other two, pail-closets were allowed, as there was no sewer laid at that part of the road, but as soon as there is a sewer the owners have promised to substitute W.C.s for the pans. Chief among the improvements I may mention the erection of latrines at the Wesleyan Schools, better sanitary accommodation provided in many of the factories, the re-draining of ten houses at the corner of Evesham Street, the substitution of latrines for pail closets in Hill Street Square, the re-paving of Hill Street Square, &c. The Sewerage System remains the same, broad irrigation over about 60 acres of the land of two farms at Ipsley, and over some land at Tanners' Wood, Headless Cross. The lease of the latter expires, I believe, next year, and it is proposed to remove the sewage from this quarter by carrying a sewer across country from Headless Cross to join the main sewer at the bottom of Millsboro' Road or Holloway Lane. As in a few more years the lease of some of the land at Ipsley will expire (but is renewable), the question of the future treatment of the sewage by septic tank and bacterial methods should receive your thoughtful attention.

There are still too many middens in the populous parts of the town. Their number is, however, steadily decreasing, and the worst ones have been done away with. At present there are 680 pail-closets in use, a less number than last year, water-closets have been substituted in several cases.

The plan adopted during scavenging of placing heaps of household refuse, ashes, vegetable refuse, paper, &c., on the side of the road to await the collecting cart, has been a rather frequent cause of complaint, as the paper and dust blow about. Your officials do all they can to prevent a "nuisance," but some better scheme of collecting this refuse should be instituted. Most of the refuse goes to the "tip" at Birmingham Road, but as suitable sites for "tips" are becoming more scarce every year it will soon be necessary to face the question of erecting a destructor.



Inspector of Nuisances Annual Report

OF THE

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF REDDITCH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, dealing with the Sanitary Work carried out in my department for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

The sanitary improvement which marked the past four years has been well maintained during the year under review, and it is particularly gratifying to know that whilst much good work has been effected, it has not been found necessary to institute any legal proceedings for non-compliance with notices ; in a few instances, however, the agents of property had to be threatened with proceedings before they carried out the works as required by notices which had been served.

NOTICES.

Two hundred and twelve notices were served for the abatement of nuisances, and for the general improvement of dwellings, &c., under the Public Health Acts.

Of the whole number twenty-nine were "Final," and were issued with the Committee's instructions. One hundred and eighty-three of the notices were "Preliminary."

There were nine notices out-standing at the end of the year.

For some time I have recognised the fact that owners of property who provided good sanitary arrangements for their tenants, by request of the Council, which in some cases are rendered useless and dangerous to health through carelessness, neglect or rough usage. In such cases it is unreasonable for the owners to be called upon to pay for repairs, that, with ordinary care would have been avoided, and keeping this idea in view, I have kept a careful watch over premises where extensive alterations have been carried out ; this resulted in thirty cases being detected where occupiers had not used their sanitary arrangements in a proper manner. The closets and drains were choked through no fault other than negligence ; notices were in each case served upon the occupiers which resulted in the conveniences being cleansed and kept in a proper manner, when it was known that they were being held responsible for such usage,

I think that if bills were printed cautioning occupiers with regard to their responsibility for the wrong usage or negligence of drains and water closets after cases of reconstruction, and posted in conspicuous places upon premises where the alterations were carried out, it would be the cause of some good results. And if only a few cases of negligence could be avoided, it would be a step in the right direction, as owners would know that although the Council insisted upon good Sanitary arrangements being provided, they were as far as possible being protected from imposition.

Sixteen notices have been served upon persons who deposited filth in courts and streets, no one however was caught in the act of committing an offence. The notices were really intended to serve as warnings to avoid future offences.

The appended table shows the nature of the notices issued.

CLERICAL.

During the year three hundred and fifty-one letters have been written upon subjects appertaining to Public Health. Of this number, one hundred and twenty-seven were letters of recommendation. By following this course of procedure the number of legal notices issued is greatly reduced, and there is this to be said in its favour, that many owners of property have expressed their appreciation of having matters requiring alteration explained in a letter, rather than receive a notice requiring work to be executed within a limited period, without any explanation as to the cause of the defects, or the way they are to be rectified.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The following Sanitary Improvements have been effected :—

- 10 New water closets provided.
- 2 Additional pail closets
- 38 Houses re-drained.
- 27 Choked drains cleansed.
- 23 Water closets cleansed and repaired.
- 43 Drains repaired.
- 14 Disconnecting traps fixed.
- 14 Fresh air inlets provided
- 11 Inspection chambers built.
- 21 Sanitary gullies fixed.
- 1 Agricultural pipe drain abolished.
- 30 Glazed sinks fixed
- 34 New sink pipes fixed
- 12 Old brick sinks abolished.
- 49 Refuse receptacles or ashpits provided or repaired.
- 15 Ventilation shafts fixed.
- 35 Defective bell traps abolished.

- 17 Yard pavements repaired or relaid.
- 3 Open catchpits abolished.
- 38 Eave and rain spouts repaired or renewed.
- 41 Accumulations of manure removed.
- 22 Nuisances from pigs and fowls dealt with.
- 11 Water wasting cases reported.
- 4 Overcrowding cases abated.
- 2 Smoke nuisances modified upon request.
- 15 House roofs repaired.
- 3 Closets provided with flushing arrangements,
- 7 Rain water tanks cleansed.
- 5 „ „ „ filled up.
- 18 Houses cleansed and repaired.
- 11 Foul urinals cleansed and repaired.

The premises where extensive alterations were carried out are as follows. No. 7 Court Walford Street, Hill Street Square, (10 houses) Messrs. Huins and Evans' Property corner of Evesham Street and Market Place, (10 shops) "Old Vicarage" Bromsgrove Road, No. 14 Hewell Road, No. 143 Birchfield Road.

The water closets at the Wesleyan Day Schools were found to be in a defective condition, a range of 12 new latrines have been fixed and the urinal made larger and more suitable.

PRIVY MIDDENS.

Twenty-four of these middens are still in existence. Six of the worst ones have been abolished during the year, each one being converted into a water closet, provided with drainage and flushing arrangements. They were situated as follows:—Hewell Road, Orchard Street, Mount Pleasant, Walford Street, Ipsley Street and Windsor Street.

Some of the middens still in use are, either from their construction or position, objectionable from a sanitary point of view. I am giving attention to these middens and hope that before long the number in use will be further reduced.

WATER SUPPLY.

I believe there are twenty-five wells in the district from which drinking-water is derived. Fourteen samples were taken and submitted to the County Analyst for analysis; three were certified as being unfit for drinking purposes. In two cases the wells have been closed, the East Worcestershire Waterworks water provided, whilst in the other case arrangements have been made for having the well thoroughly cleansed, when another sample will be taken and submitted for analysis.

Ten houses have been provided with the East Worcestershire Waterworks water during the year.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are seven of these premises within the district, or one less than last year.

It is satisfactory to report that upon the whole the slaughter-houses have been well conducted, regular and frequent visits have been paid, but the occupiers have kept the premises under good management, and had the lime-washing done when requested.

One slaughter house has been improved by having the East Worcester Waterworks water laid into it, when slaughtering is done the place can be more thoroughly washed down now that there is a constant supply of water

Some of the butchers have had to be cautioned for slaughtering and dressing pigs upon private premises, and as nuisance and annoyance is created to the people living in the neighbourhood, I should be glad to have this practice discontinued.

UNSOUND MEAT, Etc.

The usual attention has been given to the inspection of meat, fruit, etc., but no seizures have been made.

TUBERCULOSIS MEAT.

Frequent examinations were made of carcasses of meat, and in a few cases tubercular deposits were found in some of the organs, in no case however was the deposit of such a nature as to warrant the seizure and destruction of the carcase, but the diseased organs were removed and destroyed.

In every case the butchers allowed the medical officer and myself free hands with regard to the portions that should be destroyed.

FISH MARKET.

The Fish Market has received regular attention, but although two and three visits have been made every Saturday, upon only two occasions was there any need to make complaint regarding the quality of fish offered for sale; in each of the cases referred to, the owners of the fish at once handed it over to be destroyed, and no further action was taken.

Generally speaking the fish has been of good quality.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three complaints were received relating to tripe boiling. The premises were visited and the occupiers cautioned, which was sufficient to obtain better management,

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOP ORDERS, 1885.

At the commencement of the year there were fifty-three persons who were either cow-keepers or purveyors of milk, registered under these orders. Three have ceased to carry on the business owing to their premises being unsuitable, and the cost that would have had to be incurred to make them satisfactory.

In June a special report was presented to the Committee which dealt in detail upon each place registered.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are twenty-three in occupation, or two less than last year.

These premises have been regularly visited, but no notices have been served although upon thirteen occasions complaints were made with regard to lime-washing, and one complaint to a defective ceiling, all were remedied upon making verbal request.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two registered Common Lodging Houses. Each house has been frequently visited, and found to be kept in as good a manner as could be expected considering the fact that the buildings are very old and difficult to keep thoroughly clean.

The closet accommodation at one of the houses was insufficient, and after having reports from the Medical Officer and myself, it was decided to request the owner to provide suitable and sufficient water closet accommodation.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1892.

Several enquiries have been made endeavouring to find out any contraventions of this Act, but as none were discovered no report has been necessary.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

Thirteen observations have been taken of smoke emitted from chimneys other than private dwellings. In four instances black smoke was discharged for longer periods than is allowed, upon making enquiries it was found to be caused through careless stoking. In each case a letter was written which had the effect of causing more care to be exercised in that respect.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

There is probably no part of Public Health Work in which improvement has been more marked, than work carried out under this Act. The predicted improvement that would follow after the

complicated Acts were superseded by one consolidated Act is fast being realized.

Carrying out the requirements of this Act occupy a great amount of time. Four hundred and seventy-one visits have been made to factories and workshops. Ninety-three work-shops were measured up and the requisite particulars taken. Two hundred and twenty re-visits were made.

His Majesty's Inspector of Factories has spent some considerable time in the district, and required assistance when making his visits.

Thirty-six notices were received from the Factory Inspector, the majority had reference to the provision of sufficient sanitary conveniences ; each notice was considered by the Committee, and instructions given as to what action should be taken so as to meet as far as possible the wishes of the Factory Inspector.

From time to time further reports have been made as the cases were being dealt with. In July a special report was prepared which dealt in detail upon the whole of the notices, and showed what work had been carried out in the cases completed, also what was required to be done in the outstanding cases.

The Factory Inspector has been furnished with the particulars of those cases complied with, as is required by the Act.

The reason that some cases were allowed to stand over was owing to changes in occupancy of premises. In others arrangements were being made for carrying out the work.

Twelve legal notices were served upon owners of factories, in every case the works were put in hand.

Fifty-three letters were written with reference to work required to be done, the contraventions were as follows :—

Factories with insufficient water-closet accommodation	10
Workshops	2
" with defective and foul urinals	2
" requiring lime-washing and cleansing	44
" badly ventilated	2
" overcrowded	9
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	69
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Four workshops have become void.

DISINFECTION.

After all cases of infectious diseases all rooms have been thoroughly disinfected. Twelve houses were fumigated throughout.

Disinfection was done after removal or burial of thirteen phthisis patients. Formalin was the disinfectant chiefly used.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

On behalf of the Council I have received the sum of £4 4s. od. which was given me by a patient and parents, as an appreciation of the treatment received whilst in the Hospital. The money was paid into the Council's account and duly acknowledged.

Thanking you for the courtesy and support given me during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM JAMESON

(*Assoc. San. Inst.*)

March, 1905.

LIST OF NOTICES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR.

NATURE OF NOTICE.			No. Issued	No. Out standing
Defective and Choked Drains	...	...	8	
„ „ „ Water Closets	...	...	23	1
„ „ Foul Privies	...	...	41	
„ „ Yard Pavements	...	...	7	
„ „ Eave and Fall Spouts	...	...	14	5
„ „ Bell and Dip Traps	...	...	6	
„ „ Ashpits	...	...	4	
„ „ House Roofs, Walls, Floors and Ceilings	...	...	6	
Accumulations of Manure and Pig Wash	...	...	30	
Animals and Fowls improperly kept	...	...	7	
Houses in filthy condition	...	...	4	
Dilapidated Wash Houses and Closets	...	...	6	1
Drains not intercepted or ventilated	...	...	3	
Defective Privy Middens	...	...	4	
Rain Water Tanks in foul condition	...	...	3	
Urinals in foul and defective condition	...	...	4	1
Sanitary Conveniences without water supply	...	...	3	
Yards and Courts in filthy condition	...	...	4	
Want of proper Ashpits or Ashbins	...	...	4	
Houses overcrowded	...	...	2	
Want of sufficient Closet Accommodation	...	...	3	1
Sink Waste Pipes connected to Drain	...	...	1	
Depositing filth in streets and courts	...	...	24	
House Cellar in dirty condition	...	...	1	
TOTALS			212	9